

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 IO-03 OMB-01

ACDA-10 AEC-05 SAM-01 COA-01 DLOS-03 SAJ-01 NIC-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /077 W

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O R 081000Z OCT 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5129

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN

COMNAVFOR JAPAN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT JA MARR

SUBJ: DOMESTIC REACTION TO LAROCQUE STATEMENTS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA

SUMMARY: TESTIMONY BY ADMIRAL LAROCQUE INDICATING US
INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO JAPAN CONTINUES TO DOMINATE
ALL MEDIA AND HAS ELICITED EDITIRIAL CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT
EXPLANATION, AS WELL AS PREDICITIONS OF REVIVED MOVEMENT AGAINST
SECURITY TREATY. PRESS PLAY HAS BEEN FULL, BUT EDITORIAL
TREATMANT HAS SO FAR BEEN NOTICEABLY RESTRAINED PENDING FURTHER
CLARIFICATION OF ISSUE. GOJ HAS FIRMLY HELD LINE AND
OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO ORGANIZE MAJOR PROTEST
MOVEMENTS. LOCAL PRESSURES, HOWEVER, HAVE PROMPTED GOVENENORS
AND MAYORS IN U.S. BASE AREAS TO CALL FOR CESSATION OF PORTCALLS
UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED. END SUMMARY.

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1. ADMIRAL LAROCQUE'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS HAVE DOMONATED JAPANESE MEDIA DURING LAST TWO DAYS. INITIAL REPORTING HAS TENDED TO ACCEPT VALIDITY OF INTERPRETATION EXTRAPOLATED FROM TESTIMONY TO EFFECT THAT US NAVAL VESSELS ENTERING JAPANESE PORTS CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. REPORTS ON LOCAL REACTION POINT OUT IT IS COMMON SENSE CONCLUSION THAT SHIPS ARE SO ARMED. GENERAL MEDIA APPROACH SEEMS TO BE ACCEPT SUCH INTREPRETATION UNTIL GOJ AND USG PROVIDE CONVINCING EVIDENCE TO CONTRARY.

2. ALL PAPERS HAVE COMMENTED EDITORIALY AND FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL THEMES WHICH HAVE EMERGED: (1) EITHER THE USG HAS IGNORED PRIOR CONSULTATION OBLIGATIONS OR GOJ HAS KNOWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE ON SHIPS AND HAS THEREFORE DECEIVED JAPANESE PUBLIC. CONCOMITANTLY, THERE IS SERIOUS QUESTION ABOUT HOW MUCH EITHER USG, GOJ OR BOTH CAN BE TRUSTED. (2) BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE UNDER CLEAR OBLIGATION TO CLARIFY ACCURACY OF LAROCQUE ALLEGATIONS. (3) GOJ SHOULD PROHIBIT ENTRY OF NUCLEAR-CAPABLE U.S. NAVY SHIPS UNTIL CONVINCING REPLY RECEIVED FROM USG. (4) LAROCQUE REVELATIONS ARE LIKELY TO GENERATE RENEWED ANTI-SECURITY TREATY, ANTI-BASE MOVEMENT. (5) ISSUE COULD BUILD UP INTO ONE WHICH MIGHT COMPLICATE OR EVEN FORCE POSTPONEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. WHILE LATTER POINT HAS NOT BEEN DOMINANT THEME, IT HAS BEEN REGULARLY RECURRING ONE.

3. PRESS HAS PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON CREDIBILITY OF ADMIRAL LAROCQUE BECAUSE OF HIS ROLE AS FORMER CO OF 7TH FLEET FLAGSHIP AND FACT THAT HIS TESTIMONY WAS GIVEN BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE, IMPARTING ADDED NOTE OF AUTHENTICITY IN JAPANESE EYES. THIS VIEW DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN OFFSET BY HIS SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS TO JAPANESE PRESS IN MOSCOW (SEPTEL) THAT HE LACKED SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING WEAPONS ABOARD SHIPS ENTERING JAPAN.

4. GOJ HAS REACTED CALMLY SO FAR AND CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO TOLD PRESS THAT IT WAS "NATURAL" FOR US NO TO DISCLOSE LOCATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE REPEATED GOJ VIEW, THAT INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO JAPAN SHOULD BE SUBJECT OF PRIOR CONSULTATION AND STATED CONVICTION THAT USG WOULD NOT VIOLATE PROMISES BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST.

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HOWEVER, HE ALSO INDICATED GOJ WAS ASKING US FOR CLARIFICATION CONCERNING LAROCQUE STATEMENTS.

5. OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE RESPONDED BY DELIVERING PROTEST STATEMENTS TO GOJ, BY ISSUING CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF SHIPS AND BASES AND BE DENOUNCING GOVERNMENT'S BETRAYAL OF PEOPLE. ALL BUT DSP HAVE AGAIN URGED ABROGATION OF SECURITY TREATY. SEVERAL PROTEST GROUPS INCLUDING JSP AND JAPAN PEACE

COMMITTEE HAVE ALSO DELIVERED PETITIONS AT EMBASSY. SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR RALLIES OR DEMOS. BECAUSE OF ONGOING IPU CONFERENCE IN DIET BUILDING, OPPOSITON HAS BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO THAT FORUM, BUT ISSUE WILL BE TAKEN UP IN SESSIONS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF LOWER AND UPPER HOUSES SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14 AND 17 RESPECTIVELY.

6. LAROCQUE TESTIMONY HAS ALSO STIMULATED PROTESTS IN COMMUNITIES AROUND YOKOSUKA AND SASEBO. REPRESENTATIVES OF YOKOSUKA CITY AND KANAGAWA PREFECTURE ADMINISTRATIONS CALLED AT EMBASSY OCTOBER 8 AND REQUESTED TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF MIDWAY VISITS UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED. PRESS REPORTS SIMILAR REQUESTS TO GOJ BY MAYOR OF SASEBO AND GOVERNOR OF NAKASAKI PREFECTURE.

7. ONE NEW ELEMENT WITH POTENTIAL FOR FUELING INCREASED FUROR IS NEW YORK TIMES STORY CARRIED BY JAPANESE PRESS OCT 8, WHICH QUOTES DOD SOURCE AS SAYING THAT "IT IS NO SECRET US WARSHIPS ARE MAKING FOREIGN PORTCALLS WITH NUCLEAR ARMS AND GOJ HAS ALREADY BEEN INFORMED." REPORT WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR EXTENSIVE PRESS PLAY, BUT OBVIOUSLY HAS POTENTIAL FOR CREATING ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR USG AND GOJ.

8. COMMENT: LOCAL REACTION TO LAROCQUE TESTIMONY HAS BEEN WIDE-RANGING AND INTENSE. SO FAR, HOWEVER, GOJ HAS KEPT ITS COOL, PRESS HAS ADOPTED WAIT-AND-SEE APPROACH AND OPPOSITION DEPENDING ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THIS, OF COURSE, COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY IN DAYS AHEAD. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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